



# MIDCENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

*Te Pae Hauora o Ruahine o Tararua*

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9 July 2020

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Dear Amy

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## **Official Information Act Request – file ref: A08-39 cc Q30-37 M50-12**

Thank you for your request for information which we received via transfer from the Ministry of Health on 12 June 2020. You have requested the following:

1. Request 4: Impersonation of a physician is fraud, and thus a crime. Further, the impersonation of a physician in a medical setting would be consistent with an incident which has the potential to cause harm to a patient. I request, for each DHB, the total number of incidents involving an allegation that a member of the public had impersonated a physician, between 1 May 2019 and 31 August 2019, and in the event there were such incidents reported, the date of the alleged incident, the names of the agencies the incidents were reported to, and a description of the evidence provided to support the allegation of the incident.
2. Request 5: Unauthorised access, by a patient, to secure and restricted areas which require employee key-card access, such as surgical theatres and pathology laboratories, where diagnostic and biohazardous material are kept, would be an incident which has the potential to cause harm to a patient or DHB employee. Such an incident has the potential to be a crime, if it involved breaking and entering or theft of an employee key-card. I request, for each DHB, the total number of incidents involving an allegation that a member of the public had gained unauthorised access to a surgical theatre or pathology laboratory, between 1 May 2019 and 13 August 2019, and in the event there were such incidents reported, the date of the alleged incident, the names of the agencies the incidents were reported to, and a description of the evidence provided to support the allegation of the incident.
3. Request 6: According to the MoH standards and legal precedent, patients' medical records are confidential and access is restricted to the purpose in which they were obtained (for the care and treatment of the patient) and may only be accessed with the patients consent. Please refer to HISO 10064 and the Health Information Privacy Code 1994]. MoH standards (HISO 10029:2015 Health Information Security Framework) requires DHB's to take steps to protect against re-routing or interception of private (email) communications, as the interception of private communications is a crime under section 216B of the Crimes Act. I request, for each DHB, the total number of incidents involving an

allegation that a DHB employee had engaged in the interception of private email communications between a patient and a DHB employee, between 1 January 2019 and 29 May 2020, and in the event there were such incidents reported, the dates of the incidents, the names of the agencies the incidents were reported to, a description of the evidence provided to support the allegation of the incident, and the outcome of the investigation into the incidents (e.g., District or High Court Case Number, Privacy Commissioner ruling, Ombudsman decision, Human Rights Tribunal ruling, etc.).”

Request 4 – For the period 1 May 2019 and 31 August 2019, MidCentral District Health Board (MDHB) has no incidents on record of allegations that a member of the public has impersonated a physician. All incidents are reported through our electronic incident reporting system. We have confirmed with Human Resources that they are not aware of any reported incidents of this nature.

Request 5 - For the period of 1 May 2019 and 13 August 2019, MDHB can confirm it has no reported incidents where unauthorised access by a patient to secure and restricted areas that requires employee key card access have been recorded.

Request 6 - For the period 1 January 2019 and 29 May 2020, MDHB can confirm it has no reported incidents where allegations that a DHB employee has engaged in the interception of private email communications between a patient and a DHB employee.

Please note that this response, or an edited version, may be published on the MidCentral DHB website ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



**Judith Catherwood**  
**General Manager**  
**Quality & Innovation**

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**Quality and Innovation**

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